

In the Drawings

The attached replacement sheets of drawings are attached as an appendix, which begins on page 8 of this paper, and include drawing figures 1 – 4. These sheets contain formal drawings and replace the original informal drawings including figures 1 – 4.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2 – 7 and 9 – 29 are presented for reconsideration and further examination in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1, 8 and 30 – 43 have been canceled.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings; indicated that claims 9, 13, 17, 21, 25 and 29 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form; and rejected claims 1 – 8, 10 – 12, 14 – 16, 18 – 20, 22 – 24, 26 – 28 and 30 – 43 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,227,850 to Chishti et al. (hereinafter referred to as “the Chishti et al. ‘850 patent”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,231,181 to Fabricant (hereinafter referred to as “the Fabricant ‘181 patent”).

By this Response and Amendment, claims 1, 8 and 30 – 43 have been cancelled; claim 9 has been rewritten to be in independent form; and the remaining claims have been amended to depend from claim 9.

Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter, within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132, has been introduced to the present application.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings, asserting that the current drawings are informal and required formal replacement drawings.

Response

By this Response and Amendment, formal replacement drawings have been submitted.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection to the drawings.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1 – 8, 10 – 12, 14 – 16, 18 – 20, 22 – 24, 26 – 28 and 30 – 43 as being unpatentable over the Chishti et al. '850 patent in view of the Fabricant '181 patent.

Response

By this Response and Amendment, claims 1, 8 and 30 – 43 have been cancelled, thereby rendering the rejections thereto moot. Claim 9 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten to be in independent form, which the Applicant has done. The remaining pending claims have been amended to depend from claim 9. Thus, Applicant asserts that all pending claims are allowable.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Allowable Claims

The Examiner indicated that claims 9, 13, 17, 21, 25 and 29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response

By this Response and Amendment, claim 9 has been amended to be in independent form and is now, therefore, allowable. The remaining claims all ultimately depend from claim 9; therefore, these claims are all also allowable.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicant

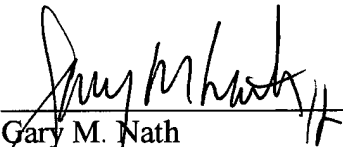
respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicant petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0112.

Respectfully submitted,
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Appendix